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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/825,422 Confirmation No. 9937
Applicant : Shinji OSAWA et al.
Filed : April 16, 2004
TC/A.U. : 3729
Examiner : Not assigned
Dkt. No. : NKS-005
Cust. No. : 20374

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 31, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each document is attached.

No fee or statement is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the last of (1) issuance of a first official action on the merits and (2) expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

Documents UA to UE and FE to FG are in the English language.

Therefore, no concise explanation of the relevance of the documents is believed to be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

Documents FA, FC and FD are not in the English language. However, the concise explanation of the relevance of the documents required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied by the submission of English language abstracts thereof. The English abstract attached to document FA is that of a Laid-open publication, JP09-038210, of the patent application which was published as document FA, 2981976B2, after examination.

Please note that document UB is an English language counterpart of the non-English language document FB. The concise explanation required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 of document FB is believed to be satisfied thereby.

Please note that documents FA to FD and UA are described in the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 4, of the specification of the present application. Document FA is also described in the paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 9 and page 4, line 24. Documents FB to FD and UA are also described in the paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 9; page 4, line 8; page 4, line 24; and page 5, line 9.

Please also note that documents UC to UE and FE to FG are cited in a search report in a corresponding European patent

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application. A copy of the search report is attached hereto.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 111833 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: PTO-1449
Twelve Documents
European Search Report



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. NKS-005	Serial No. 10/825,422
	Applicant: Shinji OSAWA et al.	
	Filing Date: April 16, 2004	Group: 3729

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If appropriate
	UA	4,619,274	10/29/86	Morrison	128	772	
	UB	4,538,622	09/03/85	Samson et al.	128	772	
	UC	5,551,444 A	09/03/96	Finlayson	128	772	
	UD	6,183,420 B1	04/06/01	Douk et al.	600	462	
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	UF						
	UG						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation Yes/No/Partial
	FA	2981976 B2	09/24/99	JP	Abstract
	FB	4-25024 B2	04/28/92	JP	No
	FC	6-327775 A	11/29/94	JP	Abstract
	FD	8-243169 A	09/24/96	JP	Abstract
	FE	98/18516 A1	05/07/98	WO	
	FF	0 815 894 A1	01/07/98	EP	
	FG	0 318 046 A2	05/31/89	EP	

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		
	DA	
	DB	
	DC	

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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KTK/jbf/jaa